

FORGING THE FUTURE:



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Friday FACTS

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2 November 2001

"Leadership, Partnership, and Championship"

Great American Smokeout Day



Thursday, November 15 2001 is the American Cancer Society Great American Smoke Out (GASO) Day! The annual event is celebrated both in the community and by the military! The GASO offers an opportunity to focus upon getting smokers and dippers to quit for the day, then hopefully for good. It also targets potential tobacco users! This year, for the first time NEHC has partnered with the Navy Exchange Command for the GASO! At some of the larger NEX's, Health Promotion booths will be set up distributing survival bags and goodies donated by the participating Exchanges.

Need ideas for this year's Smoke Out? Visit the local American Cancer Society office, the American Cancer Society website <http://www.cancer.org> or read highlights from previous years' Navy/Marine Corps GASO at <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/tobacco/tools> Please share your GASO activities and events with us at longm@nehc.med.navy.mil

Diabetes Clinical Practice Guideline training

The DoD and VA have developed a videotape program of self-study on implementation of the diabetes mellitus clinical practice guideline. The target audience for this training includes primary care providers, healthcare team members responsible for caring for patients with diabetes, clinical practice guideline champions, and QM staff. The VA Employee Education System offers continuing education credits for this activity (2 hours in category 1 towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award, 2.4 contact hours by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation, and a certificate of training for 2.0 hours to all other participants).

MTF representatives can contact Mr. Heaston of the NEHC Population Health Staff at: <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/pophealth/PopStaff.htm> to request a training kit. Please enclose in your e-mail an address to which FedEx will deliver.

For facilities that choose to implement the guideline, the complete Diabetes Mellitus Clinical Practice Guideline Implementation Toolkit will be provided to your facility at no charge while supplies last. That request form can be found at the DoD CPG website: <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/qmo/pguide.htm>



Systems Thinking Principles

Have any of you ever noticed that the harder you push, the harder the system pushes back? Healthcare throughout the U.S. is currently trying to come to grips with numerous problems such as increasing costs for technology, an aging population, and a push for prevention programs that seem to be in competition with acute care for time, money, and personnel.

Finding perspective in dealing with these and other challenging issues can be difficult, but most managers continue to search for solutions. Navy E-Learning offers free web-based instruction on "Systems Thinking Principles" that offers leadership and managers many strategies to help them THINK and ACT in ways which can help identify or clarify a problem, increase participation in problem solving, sift out major issues and factors, find systemic causes of stubborn problems, and explore short and long-term impacts of alternative solutions. Based on Peter Senge's *The Fifth Discipline*, we believe Systems Thinking is essential if we are to bring effective solutions to an increasingly complex healthcare system.

<http://www.navylearning.com/>

"We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy in the world."

- Helen Keller